



## MASSACHUSETTS COVID-19 VACCINE PROGRAM

### Updated Guidance on Use and Allowable Wastage of COVID-19 Vaccine April 4, 2023

Health care providers authorized to order, store, and administer the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts, per the Massachusetts COVID-19 Vaccine Program agreement, **should try to maintain no more than a 6-week supply of COVID-19 vaccine based on your site's usage rates.** Providers should track and rotate vaccine in stock by expiration date (administering oldest doses first) and should request assistance from DPH to transfer significant numbers of doses that are likely to expire before they can be administered.

Given the increase in vaccine availability, the Department is asking providers to maximize doses administered, understanding that this will increase waste. **When possible, providers should never miss an opportunity to vaccinate, even if the vaccination will result in unused doses from the punctured vial.** In the Commonwealth's effort to effectively administer vaccines to as many individuals as possible, and to utilize as many doses as possible that are due to expire, guidance on best practices is provided below. The following wastage percentages should be used as target goals for your site to reach and are not steadfast requirements of the program:

Overall vaccine wastage should be maintained at or below 5% of a site's overall COVID-19 vaccine inventory. For pediatric primary care practices this threshold should be at or below 10%.

For vials due to expire in 16-31 days **25% per vial wastage** is permitted (for Pfizer 6-dose vials this means up to 2 doses; for Moderna 10-dose vials up to 3 doses; for Moderna 14-dose vials up to 4 doses; for Janssen/J&J 5-dose vials up to 2 doses)

For vials due to expire in 8-15 days **50% per vial wastage** is permitted (for Pfizer 6-dose vials this means up to 3 doses; for Moderna 10-dose vials up to 5 doses; for Moderna 14-dose vials up to 7 doses; for Janssen/J&J 5-dose vials up to 3 doses)

For vials due to expire in 7 days or fewer, there is no limit on the number of doses in the vial that can be wasted if even a single dose can be administered before expiration.

The MDPH Vaccine Management Unit acknowledges that minimum ordering quantities are still relatively high for a variety of the COVID-19 formulations currently available. The elevated minimum ordering quantities may put your site in a position where you are forced to order more doses than your patient population requires, which can result in higher wastage amounts for your practice. Please work with other providers in your area to split COVID-19 vaccine orders to limit COVID-19 vaccine waste, if

possible. Health care providers should use their best judgment when making decisions about puncturing a new vial and use the above standards as guiding principles. This guidance is intended to enable providers to meet the needs of individuals who remain unvaccinated when doses would otherwise be wasted. Please continue to contact the DPH Vaccine Unit at [DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:DPH-Vaccine-Management@massmail.state.ma.us) or 617-983-6828 for assistance managing your inventory or to arrange for transfers of excess doses of COVID-19 vaccine.